

BA-138

STATE:	Maryland	(10)
COUNTY:	Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY DATE		

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Prospect Hill
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Prospect Hill

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: East side of Kane's Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Long Green		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second	
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore	CODE 005

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Howard A. Kelly, Jr.			
STREET AND NUMBER: Prospect Hill, Kane's Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore Long Green	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: St. John's College Campus			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State	<input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust			
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road			
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Baltimore  
ENTRY NUMBER: UNIT: FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

BH-138

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Prospect Hill

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Historic American Buildings Survey

Federal - 1969

Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

7. DESCRIPTION						
CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	Exterior (Check One)		Interior (Check One)			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site			
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE						
<p>Prospect Hill is located on the east side of Kane's Road northeast of Long Green, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story brick house is three bays long on the north (entrance) facade and four bays long on the south. The brick is laid in common bond and is not carefully pointed. Originally the house was covered with stucco which the present owner removed.</p> <p>The centrally placed double door on the north facade has a semi-circular leaded fanlight. Two pilasters flank the door and support a wooden arch over the fanlight. A pair of rectangular, leaded sidelights are located near the door. The entrance porch has a round arch within the pediment which is supported by two pairs of columns. On the south facade a one-story porch runs the length of the building. Access to the porch is gained through a jib door. There is an enclosed chimney on both the east and west gable ends. A semi-circular, leaded window is located in the center of the west facade at the attic level. The windows have six-over-six sashes with plain sills and short arches. It is probable that when the house was stuccoed the window arches were treated more elaborately.</p> <p>The interior of Prospect Hill is arranged next to a hall which runs from east to west along the north facade. The stair and passage to the wing exist at the east end and a small library is at the west end. The two principal rooms open off the hall and occupy the southwest and southeast (original dining room) corners of the house. These two rooms have deep, elaborate plaster cornices and mantles executed in an Adam-inspired style. The low chair rails are reeded as is the mantle in the library. The quality of the interior has led to speculation that it may be the work of William Thornton. The tall proportions of the rooms and the details associate this building with the Federal style.</p> <p>A two-story wing extends from the east facade of the main house. It is stone covered with stucco. The wing has lower ceilings and more modest proportions than the Federal block. The first floor windows have six-over-six sashes while those on the second are three-over-three, resembling "eyebrow" windows. A chimney protrudes from the center of the roof ridge. The wing contains a dining room with plain wood trim and a kitchen.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
 ☐ 16th Century
 ☒ 18th Century
 ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century
 ☐ 17th Century
 ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1796-1798

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               |  | <u>Maryland history</u>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prospect Hill is an early example of the Federal style in Maryland. Built between 1796 and 1798, it equals, if not rivals, later Federal buildings, e.g., the Carroll Mansion, Baltimore City, especially in the interior detailing and proportions. The builder, Thomas Ringgold, had the financial resources as well as the cultural background to construct a house in the most current tastes. He was the grandson and eldest son of two wealthy and politically prominent Chestertown merchants, both named Thomas Ringgold. His family home, the Hynson-Ringgold House, is one of the architectural monuments of Chestertown.

Tragedy surrounds the early years at Prospect Hill. Thomas Ringgold, by twentieth century standards, was an alcoholic and within a year of the construction of Prospect Hill became incapable of managing his and his family's finances. He became hopelessly in debt and spent some time in the Baltimore City jail for failure to pay his debts. His mother and brothers reacted to the situation by having him declared legally insane.<sup>1</sup> Ringgold's brothers, Samuel Ringgold of Fountain Rock and Tench Ringgold of Washington, D. C., managed his property. They sold Prospect Hill in 1812 to pay their brother's debts.

Before Ringgold bought the tract it had belonged to George Hunter who had farmed it since the mid-eighteenth century. Hunter received title to the land from the State of Maryland. Hunter's farm was a part of Gunpowder Manor, a proprietary manor owned by the Lords Baltimore. During the American Revolution Maryland confiscated all British property, and often, as in Hunter's case, the tenants received full title.

<sup>1</sup>Commission of Lunacy, 1804. Ringgold v. Ringgold, Chancery Papers 4421-A.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources: Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland  
 Chancery Papers 4421-A.  
 Baltimore County Land Records  
 Gunpowder Manor, plat of Confiscated British Property.  
 Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798.  
 Tax Assessment of 1783.  
 A List of Tenaments on His Lordship's Manor of Gunpowder in 1767.  
 Calvert Papers (microfilm #1234).

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39 ° 28 ' 53 "	76 ° 30 ' 58 "			
NE	39 ° 28 ' 57 "	76 ° 30 ' 40 "			
SE	39 ° 28 ' 43 "	76 ° 30 ' 38.36 "			
SW	39 ° 28 ' 38 "	76 ° 30 ' 52 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 50 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Nancy Miller, Historian		DATE Jan. 31, 1973
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust		
STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road		
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland	CODE 24

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
 Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer  
 for Maryland

Date February 8, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

TOWSON QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND—BALTIMORE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

5763 III SW  
(JARRETTSTVILLE)

368

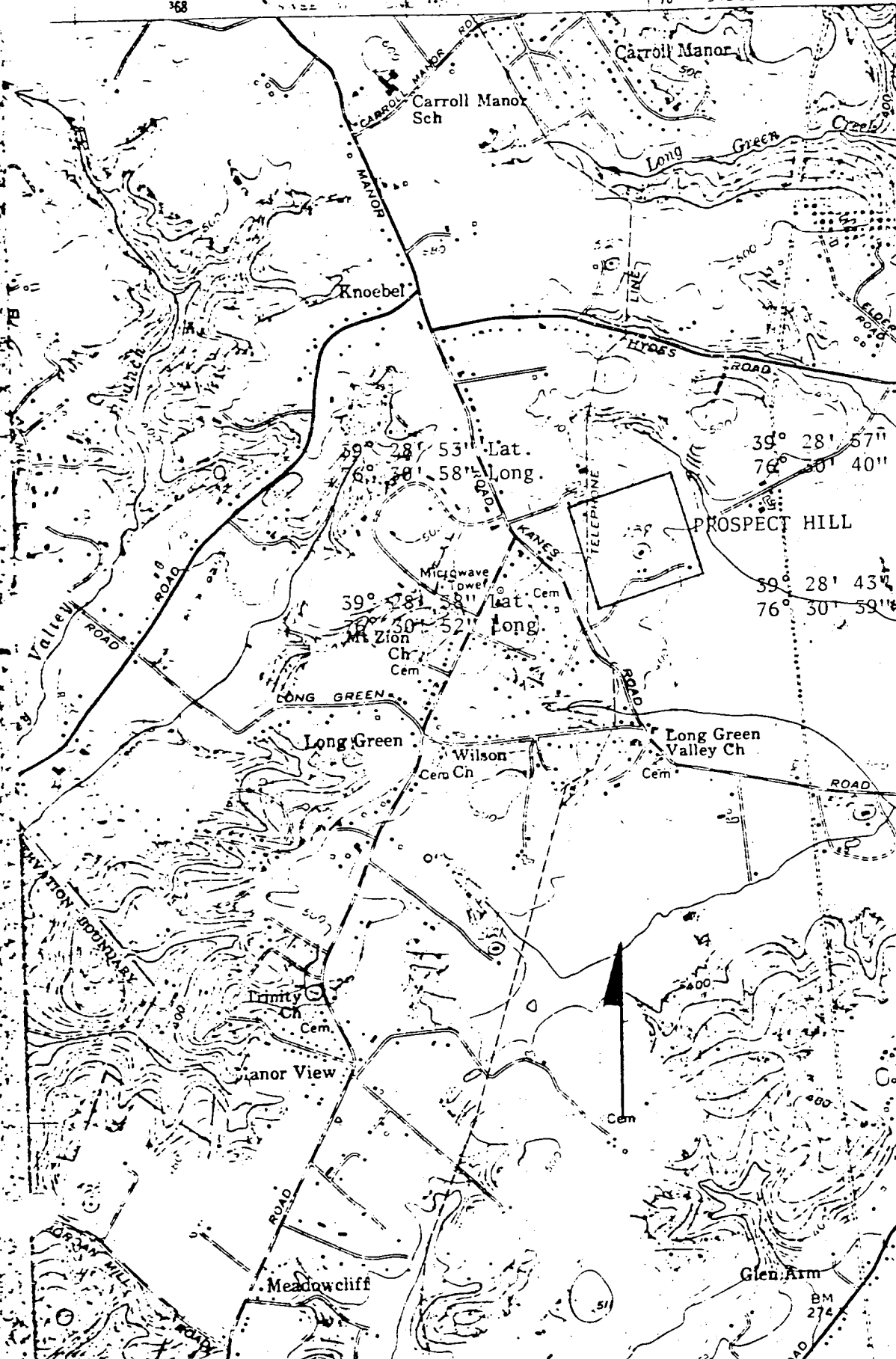
370

940 000 FEET

76° 30'

39° 30'

TOWSON QUADRANGLE  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute ma  
Scale: 1:24,000  
1957, photorevised 196



39° 28' 53" Lat.  
76° 30' 58" Long.

39° 28' 57" Lat.  
76° 30' 40" Long.

39° 28' 52" Lat.  
76° 30' 52" Long.

39° 28' 43" Lat.  
76° 30' 59" Long.

4371  
600 000  
FEET

4370

4369

27' 30"

Maryland  
Baltimore  
District XI  
Long Green Valley

BA-138  
Prospect Hill  
03-11-1965

about 1745

Built by Major Ringgold on about 270 acres. Bricks came from England. Double thick walls and floors, windows shuttered inside and out; interior woodwork and mantels beautifully carved.

(First HABS Report)  
E. Frances Offutt  
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965